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Better Times Coming

The signs of the times are for better things in Florida.

An educated public sentiment, the result of a quarter century of earnest work by the State Board of Health to bring the people of the state to a higher appreciation of the value of clean living, has been reflected in the progressive action of the legislature now in session at Tallahassee. Already the upper branch of this body has given serious heed to the suggestions for the legislative betterment of Florida's health laws, and there seems to be no doubt that the lower house will confirm the action of the senatorial law-makers.

For more than twenty-five years the State Board of Health has stood between the people of the state and serious menaces. Originally the Board came into existence by the act of a special session of the legislature, called together by Governor F. P. Fleming, following the yellow fever epidemic of 1888. The guiding idea was that this board should lead and focalize the fight for the protection of the entire state against this disease,—just how was not understood, and the uncertainty of the proposition was the reason for clothing it with extraordinary authority.

In those days the agency of the mosquito as a carrier of the germ of yellow fever was not understood, but with the later discovery of this fact and the stern application of the principle involved, the problem became simple, because it had been robbed of its mystery.

With the solution of this problem, others became relatively more important, for the world was advancing in its knowledge of health matters, and Florida was keeping

abreast of the times and in addition it had its own problems.

There is no greater obstacle to progress than indifference. The preaching of men who are in earnest, who know what they are talking about, is listened to and treated as the vaporings of fanatics, but the fanatics of today are the wise men, the leaders of tomorrow.

As medical science has advanced in its knowledge of health and sanitation and of their intimate relation, as prevention of diseases has been brought to a par with its cure, Florida's Health Board has urged these ideas on the attention of the people of Florida. It has argued, it has offered proofs in numberless instances of the truth of its position, and in the final result it has removed from Florida the unjust aspersion that a semitropical country is necessarily unhealthy, by proving the contrary of the great Peninsular State.

Its work has been that of education, illustrated by many object lessons. It has shown that typhoid fever and malaria and small pox and hookworm are not necessary—that they may be avoided and how. It has shown how the ravages of tuberculosis may be minimized. It has demonstrated the relations between clean bodies and clean surroundings and the highest physical health. Yet, more than once in the past has the bill to abolish the State Board of Health, or to make it an insignificant branch of some other department of state government, received serious consideration by a state legislature.

Happily, those days are in the past and the legislature of 1915 in its wisdom and appreciation of the aims and ambitions and accomplishments of the Board, is providing it with larger resources and powers to do its work. It is a matter of congratulation that a legislative body has come into power in Florida with the intelligence and the will to hasten the progress of the state through the increased efficiency of the State Board of Health.—State Board of Health Bulletin.

Barbed wire cuts, ragged wounds, collar and harness galls heal up quickly when Ballard's Snow Liniment is applied. It is both healing and antiseptic. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

(Advertisement)

How a Moose Eats.
Of all peculiar sights I think that that of a moose eating grass is the most extraordinary. The neck is so short and the legs are so long that the animal usually kneels in eating grass. True, it does not attempt it very often, for grass is by no means a staple with it, but even a moose likes a change of diet. The appearance of this huge and awkward creature in this devotional attitude is not only interesting, but really laughable.—St. Nicholas.

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CLAYTON L. PORTER.
Punta Gorda, Fla.

DRAINAGE TRUSTEES' MAKE THEIR REPORT

Full Accounting Made in the Matter of Punta Gorda Canal

As will be noted from report as published in minutes of the county commissioners, appearing in this paper, the drainage trustees of the Punta Gorda district have made a full accounting in the matter of the construction of the canal through the vegetable-growing section adjacent to this city.

Col. C. C. Morgan of Fort Ogden, secretary of the board of trustees, has taken a lively interest in the carrying out of this drainage project, as have also Mr. L. L. Barnhill of Charlotte Harbor and Mr. G. W. Gatewood of Bermond, who were associated with him as trustees. They have given close attention to all matters that came before them, and Colonel Morgan has been especially observant, believing that with the experience thus gained other drainage projects can be handled more economically.

The engineering work on this project, as is known, was handled chiefly by Wm. M. Whitten, present commissioner from this district, and his efforts in behalf of the project have been invaluable.

In the aggregate, the canal has cost \$9,319.70, the items being given in the trustees' report as submitted to the commissioners by Colonel Morgan.

The construction of this canal means a great deal to the truck farming industry of this section, and every one engaged in trucking realizes its value. All who are thus benefited are duly appreciative to those gentlemen who have given the work their attention, having it carried to a successful issue.

Contractor Reid finished the work in less than the allotted time and did it thoroughly.

Mr. P. W. McAdow, in purchasing the bonds, made it possible to finance the project.

It is men of this ilk—public-spirited citizens like Colonel Morgan, Mr. Barnhill, Mr. Gatewood, Mr. Reid and Mr. McAdow that make possible the carrying out of needed improvements and development projects.

Married Ladies' Club

Thursday afternoon, May 8th, Mrs. T. R. Woodson was hostess to the M. L. S. C. at the home of Mrs. Mary Sandlin on Retta Esplanade. Responses to roll call were taken from James Whitecomb Riley.

After a brief business session, Mrs. U. S. Whiteaker read from the Stoddard Lecture Course, the subject being "Egypt." Mrs. G. W. Bair rendered "Valse" which was appreciated by all present. Miss Grace Laubach a vocal solo "Sweet Miss Mary." Miss Bessie Sandlin also rendered a vocal solo "Beloved it is Morn." Little Bonnie Bell Boykin gave a reading "Almost Beyond Endurance" by James Whitcombe Riley, which would do credit to one twice her age and also showed her natural ability in that line; she also gave "Uncle Noah Clayton," "Uncle Pete in the Automobile" and "So was I." Byrdie Mobley gave a reading "The Raggedy Man" by James Whitcomb Riley in a very pleasing manner, after which Mrs. Eubank gave the biography of the author of the afternoon.

The hostess then invited the ladies to the dining room, where she served dainty refreshments, being assisted by Bessie Sandlin, Grace Laubach and Elizabeth Woodson.

Mrs. Huffman will entertain the club at the next meeting at her home May 28th; responses will be miscellaneous selections.—Mrs. F. L. Laubach, Secy.

Dizziness, vertigo, (blind staggers) salivary complexion, flatulence are symptoms of a torpid liver. No one can feel well while the liver is inactive. Herbine is a powerful liver stimulant. A dose or two will cause all bilious symptoms to disappear. Try it. Price 50c. Sold by all druggists.

(Advertisement)

RANDOM RAPS

(Kanned)

Chicago needs to take something for its strike fever.

Mr. Harrison is the retiring mayor of Chicago, but not very.

Manifestly Mr. Barnes would like to hear the Bull Moose mew.

Speaking of electrifying modern dances, have you seen the induction coil?

A defeated Mexican general is about as popular as the bull that fell in yesterday's fight.

Japan's ambition may be to star in the role of the international suspicious character.

Striking modily to the centre of the stage, Italy again recites Hamlet's great soliloquy.

At least the mayor of Terre Haute, who has been sent to prison will be satisfied with one term.

Never do a thing gratis today that some one is likely to pay you to do tomorrow.

One trouble with most of our brilliant thoughts is that they were original with the ancient thinkers.

After passing up the presidency, Pancho has concluded to compromise by running for the Rio Grande.

Rather than incur the suspicion of crooked methods, fair D. A. R. voters will insist on voting the straight ticket.

Germans may not be baseball fans but they have some of the earmarks. A short time ago they were cheering Von Hindenburg, he was the idol of the hour. Then the old soldier didn't make good, a change of sentiment occurred and he was disgraced.

In the whole field of medicine there is not a remedy that will repair damage to the flesh more quickly than Ballard's Snow Liniment. In cuts, wounds, sprains, burns, scalds and rheumatism, its healing and penetrating power is extraordinary. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

DIXIE HIGHWAY

Tentative Route Considered at Meeting in Board of Trade Rooms Friday Night

Although there was not a quorum of the members of the Board of Trade present, the several members of the organization who came up, and the members of the Woman's Civic Improvement Association, who were in attendance, took up and discussed among themselves matters of more or less importance, among others being a petition setting forth a tentative route for the Dixie Highway.

It was the sense of those present that if this great highway, as proposed, could be brought through Punta Gorda, it would be one of the best things ever accomplished for the town. The tentative route is to run from Arcadia to Punta Gorda, thence south from here to the Caloosahatchee river, crossing the river near Olga and continuing to Fort Myers and forming a loop taking a route back via Fisheating creek and Venus and up through Oseola county. It pledges our county commissioner, Hon. Wm. M. Whitten, to construct a few miles of road in addition to what is provided for in the district good roads project; but for the most part, the main lines of road as provided for under our bond issue, will be used. Mr. Whitten has acceded to the proposition on condition that the highway come through Punta Gorda, and at the meeting Friday night approval of what Mr. Whitten has done in the matter or will do and the tentative route was signified without any dissenting voice.

Circuit Court

Jesse Alderman, who was convicted of the murder of Ed Howard, a negro, near this city on the night of September 4, 1914, was sentenced to a life term of imprisonment, the jury having recommended him to the mercy of the court. Alderman's attorney had filed a motion for a new trial, but this was denied.

The case of the state vs. A. T. Harley, who was charged with criminal trespass and resisting an officer while in the discharge of his duties, resulted in a mistrial and will come up again at next term of court. Harley was admitted to bail in the sum of \$2,000.

E. L. Lockier, who was implicated with Jesse Alderman in the murder of Ed Howard, was brought to trial Tuesday morning. He pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact, and Judge Whitney sentenced him to ten years at hard labor.

A number of other cases have been disposed of this week, amongst others being a blind tiger case or two, but none of these are of any special interest locally.

The court since Tuesday has been busy with civil cases.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated Sunday all over America. In many instances there were special observances in churches and preachers in their sermons referred to the devotion and self-sacrifice of the mothers of the country for the benefit of the children.

The idea of Mother's Day is that it shall be celebrated annually as a day of remembrance and sentiment. Since the observance of Mother's Day was first suggested by Miss Jarvis of Philadelphia, it has become more popular each year. It is not the intention that the day be observed with any great show or pomp, but on the contrary the wearing of a white carnation or other white flower as a sign of remembrance is urged.

In Punta Gorda the day was not lost sight of, many people wearing the white flower, as suggested; and in the Baptist church, Pastor Woodson conformed his service to

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the occasion. Special services in the other churches the coming Sunday will be in the nature of a "Mother's Day" observance.

In the words of a contemporary: "In honoring the mothers of America the citizens are proving true the poet's lines, 'The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.' The mother in the home is the one who trains the coming generation and without her guiding influence and tender care no progress in civilization could be made."

A TWO DAY SALE At Store No. 3 May 15th and 17th

Men's seasonable Palm Beach suits at only	\$6.15	Many Other Articles Cheap
Worth \$8.00 and \$8.50 per suit.		DRESS GOODS
\$3.75 Men's White Felt Hats at Only	\$2.75	\$1.00 a yard Messaline Silk per yard Only 85c.
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Men's Oxford Shoes at Sacrifice Prices		LADIES' OXFORDS
\$5.00 Values at Only	\$3.75	\$2.75 and \$3.00 Ones at Only \$2.45
\$3.75 and \$4.00 Ones at Only	\$3.25	\$2.25 to \$2.50 Mary Jane Pumps at Only \$1.99
\$2.50 Oxfords at Only	\$1.99	Can Supply Tan or Patent Leather Children's Mary Janes
\$2.50 Work Shoes Reduced to	\$2.25	Sizes 11 to 12. \$1.65 White Canvas at Only \$1.30
\$2.25 Ones for this Sale Only	\$1.99	\$1.50 Rubber Sole Oxfords at Only \$1.25
		Have these in sizes 8½ to 13
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- Manager -

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